

Isaac M. Wise Temple (Plum Street Temple)
Southeast corner of Plum and Eighth Streets
Cincinnati
Hamilton County
Ohio

HABS No. 0-643

HABS
OHIO
31-CINT
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE (PLUM STREET TEMPLE)

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Location: Southeast corner of Plum and Eighth Streets, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio

Present Owner: Congregation K. K. B'nai Yeshurun, Plum and Eighth Streets, Cincinnati, Ohio

Present Occupant: Congregation K. K. B'nai Yeshurun

Present Use: Synagogue

Brief Statement of Significance: This Morrish-design synagogue was designed by James Keyes Wilson, first president of the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and was erected 1863-1865.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Continuous use as a synagogue.
2. Date of erection: 1863-1865.
3. Architect: James Keyes Wilson, First President, Cincinnati Chapter, American Institute of Architects.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Building was originally gray brick and stone; it was restored in 1950 with repointing of mortar of minarets and with painting the brick red and stone gray. /See page 9, February 1956 issue of The Ohio Architect./
5. Important old views and references:

Views: Following page 466 of The Ohio Guide, compiled by workers of the Writers' Program of the Works Projects Administration.

Recognizable in print, preceding page 31 of The Ohio Guide, incorrectly identified as "Cincinnati (1860)."

Shown in photo by Paul Briol, Ohio Year Book (1955), page 63, published by Ohioana Library.

Photo, page 140, A History of Ohio, Roseboom and Weisenburger.

- References: (1) February 1956 issue of The Ohio Architect.
(2) Ohio Yearbook 1955, Ohioana Library.

Prepared by Perry E. Borchers
February 10, 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This building is of national interest architecturally; and, according to the Ohio Yearbook, 1955 (published by the Ohioana Library), it is "regarded as perhaps the best example of Moorish Architecture in this country."
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent. Building is in use after thorough repointing of masonry and repainting of interior and exterior in 1950.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Basement and high nave; main room is 100 feet long.
2. Foundations: Not known.
3. Wall construction: Brick with stone trim. Interior cast-iron columns support cast-iron beams (concealed by arches) which support clearstory wall.
4. Chimneys: One--a minor element.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Pointed arch openings.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Stained-glass windows of predominant gold and scarlet color.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: This building was originally described as an Alhambra Temple of 13 domes. Domes which are under roof show construction of lath and plaster.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Stone, corbelled.
- c. Dormers: None--but five of the domes project above the roof.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

- 1. Floor plans: Main room has high nave and two side aisles. Two side entrances create a T-shape at the end of the room.
- 2. Stairways: Steep winding wood stairways in minarets.
- 3. Flooring: Timber.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Brilliant interior Fresco work, carefully restored with stencilled painting in 1950.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Elaborately carved wood doors.
- 6. Trim: Stone.
- 7. Lighting: Original lighting by great chandeliers. Lighting added later as garlands of bare bulbs around capitals of columns and along interior cornice.

D. Site

- 1. General setting and orientation: Temple faces Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains. The entrance facade is to the west on Plum Street.
- 2. Landscaping: Small yard along north facade.

Prepared by Perry E. Borchers
February 10, 1959

Addendum to
Isaac M. Wise Temple
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Data pages 1 through 3 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 4.

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- 10 4" x 6" glass plate diapositives (5 stereopairs) and
- 6 4" x 6" glass plate negatives (3 stereopairs) produced by Perry E. Borchers of the Ohio State University in 1957 and 1958.

One survey control contact print per plate; survey control information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-301L *

WEST FACADE
(Diapositive)

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-301R

WEST FACADE
(Diapositive)

Left and right overlap: 90%

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-302L *

NORTH AND WEST FACADES FROM NORTH
(Negative)

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-302R

NORTH AND WEST FACADES FROM NORTH
(Negative)

Left and right overlap: 90%

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Data (Page 5)

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-303L *	WEST AND NORTH FACADES, ANGLED (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-303R	WEST AND NORTH FACADES, ANGLED (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-304L *	WEST FACADE, LOWER PORTION (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-304R	WEST FACADE, LOWER PORTION (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-305L	DOORS, WEST FACADE (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-305R *	DOORS, WEST FACADE (Diapositive)
	(No master contact prints) Left and right overlap: 95%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-306L *	NORTH GATE NEAR WEST FACADE (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-306R	NORTH GATE NEAR WEST FACADE (Diapositive)
	Left and right overlap: 95%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-307L *	NE ENTRANCE (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-307R	NE ENTRANCE (Diapositive)
	Left and right overlap: 95%

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-308L

SE EXIT
(Diapositive)

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-308R *

SE EXIT
(Diapositive)

Left and right overlap: 90%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

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